

**Testimony  
of  
The United Illuminating Company  
Re:  
Raised Bill No. 6459  
AN ACT CONCERNING RENEWABLE RESOURCE GENERATION  
Energy & Technology Committee**

**Legislative Office Building  
March 1, 2011**

Good afternoon, Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, and members of the Energy & Technology Committee. My name is Roddy Diotalevi and I am Senior Director of Client Services for The United Illuminating Company (UI), an operating company of UIL Holdings Corporation.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer UI's comments regarding **Raised Bill No. 6459, AN ACT CONCERNING RENEWABLE RESOURCE GENERATION**. UI supports this Bill as a means to more quickly implement larger scale deployments of Class 1 and Class II renewable technologies. Renewable energy is and will be an important part of Connecticut's energy mix and encourage the advancement of such generation systems. This Bill seeks to promote development of renewable generation by allowing each of the electric distribution companies to own or develop Class I or Class II renewable energy projects to meet state or federal renewable portfolio standards (RPS) thus putting renewable resource projects in operation promptly. In addition, this Bill will have a positive impact on creating jobs here in CT in construction, trades and the technical and engineering fields.

Allowing electric distribution companies to have a leadership role in constructing, purchasing, owning, or operating renewable generation facilities, with the appropriate Department of Public Utility Control regulatory oversight, is one of the quickest and most efficient methods for larger scale deployment of renewable generation. This should ensure the lowest price to customers for this generation, and therefore should minimize the projects' effect on customer rates.

UI customers overwhelmingly support the involvement of the electric utilities in renewable resource development. In a recent survey conducted by The Center for Research in Meriden, CT, over 300 UI residential and business customers were asked, "Do you favor or oppose your electric utility developing renewable resources?" Nearly 92% of UI customers surveyed responded that they either "strongly favor" (76.6%) or "somewhat favor" (15.1%) their electric utility developing renewable resources.

This Bill, as written, is a good starting place for the continued advancement of renewable generation. However, the 5 MW allowance for UI represents less than two percent of the Company's Class I RPS requirement for 2012\*. UI hopes that a passage of the Bill and subsequent successful implementation of renewable generation projects by UI will highlight the Company's ability to place projects in operation and encourage the General Assembly to increase this allowance.

In closing, Raised Bill No. 6459 will create an additional and very cost effective channel for the development of renewable resource generation systems in the State. It creates a more prominent role for UI in the deployment of renewable resources, which we believe can enable robust participation by customers. Lastly, the Bill if enacted would minimize the rate impact on customers from renewable resource generation because recovery of construction or purchase costs of the renewable generation facility would be based on cost of service, with DPUC involvement and oversight.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

\* UI 2010 kWh sales = 5.7 billion. In 2012, Class I RPS requirement of 9% = 513 million kWh. Analysis assumes 5 MW of Solar PV at 1,300 kWh/kW = 6.5M kWh or 1.27% of RPS.